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17 September 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, USIB

SUBJECT : Secretariat Summary of USIB Agenda for 19 September

- Item 1 Approval of Minutes and Associated Paper of 13 September Meeting
Drafts to be circulated by the Dep Exec Sec for USIB approval;
Sponsor - [REDACTED]
- Item 2 Watch Report
Draft by Watch Committee to be circulated for Board approval;
Sponsor - Mr. Godfrey
- Item 3 SNIE on Communist China's ICBM and Submarine-launched Ballistic Missile Programs
BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB approval;
Sponsor - Mr. Abbot Smith

This SNIE was requested by DIA on 21 August in behalf of Mr. Nitze. The footnote to "The Problem" explains that this is an interim estimate prepared in response to a specific request and that all aspects of China's strategic weapons program will be discussed in detail in NIE 13-8-68 scheduled for publication in December.

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Concerning the only reservation at the representatives level, BNE understands that DIA will propose two changes to the last sentence of paragraph 6 which will be supported by Army and Air Force.

[REDACTED]

BNE prepared no Conclusions because this is a short paper and BNE believes that it is important for the consumer to understand the problems and uncertainties involved in some of the judgments.

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Item 4 NIE on Main Issues in Soviet Military Policy

BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB approval;

Sponsor - Mr. Abbot Smith

The title of this regularly scheduled estimate was changed from previous NIEs in the 11-4 series from "Main Trends..." to "Main Issues in Soviet Military Policy". The new title reflects BNE's intention to have this paper focus on current issues and to highlight the major choices which Soviet leaders face in formulating military policy and planning programs for the future. This estimate was delayed by the Czech Crisis and has been changed to take account of it. There are a number of dissents in the paper, mostly from the Air Force, which reflect traditional service views which have been recorded in other estimates and which BNE feels cannot be resolved. The Navy reservation to paragraph 50 may be dropped in view of the addition of the final sentence. In addition to the recorded reservations DIA has informed BNE that General Carroll will probably dissent to the projected ICBM numbers in paragraph 22. Mr. Abbot Smith's briefing memo explains BNE's opposition to this DIA dissent in some detail and concludes by recommending against changes anywhere in the present draft of this estimate.

[Redacted]
[Redacted] Executive Secretary, USIB

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